

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ZONING AND PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

MONDAY, MARCH 28, 2005

Present: Ald. Yates (Chairman), Ald. Lappin, Lennon, Hess-Mahan, Danberg, Sangiolo, and Baker

Absent: Ald. Johnson

Also present: Ald. Merrill and Albright

City officials: Charles Eisenberg, Chairman, Economic Development Commission, Bruce Gold, Chairman, Newton Centre Subcommittee, and Linda Finucane, Chief Committee Clerk

Re-appointment by His Honor the Mayor

#45-05 PETER KAI JUNG LEW, 61 West Pine Street, Auburndale, re-appointed as a member of the ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION for a term of office which will expire on February 25, 2008 (60 days 4/23/05).

ACTION: APPROVED 7-0

NOTE: Mr. Lew is an architect who served as a member of the EDC's Newton Centre Subcommittee that produced the *Newton Centre Renaissance* report. He pointed out several problems with the through traffic, lack of appropriate parking, lack of visual identity, obstacles to easy pedestrian access between sections of the centre, etc. Like his colleagues he hesitated to provide details for the problems and possible solutions beyond what is present in the report. He and they prefer to leave the detailed analysis and recommendations to the proposed task force. The committee thanked Mr. Lew for his past service and on beginning his third term and voted 7-0 to approve his re-appointment.

Re-appointment by His Honor the Mayor

#46-05 F. GERARD ADAMS, 39 Stafford Road, Newton Centre, appointed as a member of the ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION for a term of office expiring January 23, 2008 (60 days 4/23/05).

ACTION: APPROVED 7-0

NOTE: Doctor Adams is a professor of economics at Northeastern University. He has extensive experience in macro-economics and international development. He assured the committee that he also is experienced in community and regional development which are germane to the EDC. His most relevant experience to his work on the Newton Centre Subcommittee is ten years of walking as a resident of a nearby street. He also felt that major improvements were needed to several aspects of the centre but agreed that decisions should be made only by a broadly representative task force with widespread participation by all relevant stakeholders. The committee thanked Mr. Adams for his service and voted to 7-0 to approve his re-appointment.

#46-04 ALD. YATES requesting a report from the *Economic Development Commission* concerning their plan for the redevelopment of Newton Centre.

ACTION: NO ACTION NECESSARY 7-0

NOTE: EDC Chairman Charles Eisenberg and EDC Subcommittee Chairman Bruce Gold presented the *Newton Centre Renaissance* report and answered questions, but basically re-stated the report's description of the current situation and possible solutions. They felt strongly that no recommendations coming just from the EDC would carry much weight and that controversial proposals like a development in place of the triangle parking lot would need strong community consensus based on a broad-based process with participation by all major stakeholders and overseen by a representative task force. The Chairman pointed out the success of the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Main Street program (see attachments), and suggested the proposed Newton Centre Renaissance Task Force follow its principles and practices. The committee thanked the EDC for its hard work and, since the report requested in the docket item had been provided, voted no action necessary 7-0.

#392-04(5) ANGINO FARM SUBCOMMITTEE requesting review and discussion of the draft conservation restriction for the Angino Farm property.

ACTION: NO ACTION NECESSARY 7-0

#392-04(6) HIS HONOR THE MAYOR, PRES. BAKER & ALD. LINSKY requesting an informal review of the proposed conservation restriction for the Angino Farm prior to the submission to the state for review and its return to the Board of Aldermen for final review and acceptance.

ACTION: NO ACTION NECESSARY 7-0

NOTE: The draft conservation restriction was submitted to the state and has been returned. The informally approved document will be docketed for April 4 and referred to this committee. Therefore these items, no longer necessary, were voted no action necessary, 7-0.

#72-05 NATIONAL ARCHITECTURAL TRUST & DANIEL KERNAN & GISELA VOSS requesting acceptance by the City of a preservation restriction on property located at 135 Lincoln Street, Newton Highlands.

ACTION: HELD 7-0

All other items were held without discussion. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Brian Yates, Chairman